CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1613
23 May 2000

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE ON 18 MAY 2000 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY BY THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on 18 May 2000 in connection with the completion of the process of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

I should be grateful if this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Vassily Sidorov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Head of the delegation of the
Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PROCESS OF RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY BY THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

On 17 May 2000, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation approved the Federal Act on ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). With that the process of ratification of this highly significant instrument by the legislative branch of power in Russia was concluded.

Support by the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for ratification of CTBT provides further evidence of the fundamental commitment of our country to the strengthening of international security, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament.

The response all over the world to the steps we have taken demonstrates that the ratification of CTBT by the Russian Federation as a nuclear Power is viewed as a clear signal from the new Russian leadership in favour of greater strategic stability and trust between peoples. By ratifying CTBT, the Russian Federation has once again convincingly demonstrated that it is true to its word and committed to honouring its obligations in the area of arms control and disarmament.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation reaffirms the need to preserve earlier arms control agreements which form the basis for strategic stability in the world and to prevent the collapse of those agreements. In this connection, we express our firm belief that the earliest possible entry into force of CTBT, which poses an effective obstacle to the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and to their proliferation, is in the interests of all humankind. The potential of CTBT can only be effectively realized if it is ratified by all nuclear-weapon States and by other countries whose ratification is essential for its entry into force in accordance with the provisions of article XIV of the Treaty. We therefore call on those countries which have not yet signed or ratified CTBT to do so as soon as possible, to facilitate the practical realization of the goals enshrined in the Treaty and in the interests of ensuring security and peace.

18 May 2000